[Translation]

Telephone Instruments Out of Order

659. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the telephone subscribers in Delhi and various other parts of the country are facing lot of problems on account of their telephone instruments being out of order;

(b) if so, whether the telephone department is harassing the subscribers by showing the non-availability of the instrument;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to the telephone exchanges of Delhi and Sitapur district in Uttar Pradesh for replacing telephone instruments which are out of order;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, about 2 to 10% of total complaints are due to telephone instrument faults and such faults are rectified as & when reported.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The guidelines in MTNL Delhi and Sitapur district in UP have already been issued to repair the minor telephone faults at the subscribers premises. In case of major faults the telephones are replaced by a good working telephone instrument.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Use of Polythene Bags

660. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the excessive use of polythene bags is causing danger to the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the low quality polythene bags manufactured by many companies leave their colours if some food item is kept in them;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government is aware of the reports that sometimes these thrown away polythenes are eaten by the animals which results in death of these animals; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Polythene bags are not harmful to the environment per se, though, improper disposal may cause environmental problems.

(c) and (d) Instances have come to notice that low quality polythene bags may leave their colour on unpacked food items. The National Plastic Waste Management Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recommended restriction on the manufacture of dirty colour bags with visible contamination. An Implementation Monitoring Committee has been constituted to oversee the progress and follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force.

(e) No reports regarding death of animals due to the consumption of polythenes, have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

Obscenity on Doordarshan

661. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the image of Doordarshan has maligned as the tendency to over exposing females have been increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that through telecast of advertisements and serials, women are being presented as a commodity which is affecting the Indian culture;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that the films and Doordarshan Programmes have been instrumental in the nab of crimes against the women specially minor girls; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the vulgar exposure and discourage the increasing tendencies of telecast of beauty contests?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, Doordarshan previews all its programmes including films before telecast to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing and conform to the provisions of Broadcast and Advertisement Codes. Besides, Doordarshan considers only those films which are certified by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for Universal Exhibition. CBFC takes care that *modus operandi* of criminals and other visuals and words likely to incite the commission of any offence against women especially minor girls are not

depicted and that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity.

Doordarshan recently did not telecast the Miss Universe 98 Beauty contest in line with its policy of not telecasting such programmes on women.

Doordarshan also shows women in a positive manner in order to prevent any crimes against women and minor girls. Programmes on empowering women are also telecast on Doordarshan to create a healthy environment which prevents atrocities against women and minor girls.

[English]

Pollution by Textile Industries

662. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the textile industries were causing water and air pollution in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court of India vide order dated July 8, 1996 in C.W.P. 4677/85 (PIL) directed the textile mills to be located within the National Capital Region at a communicable distance from Delhi; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The textile industrial units causing air and water pollution in Delhi include the following:-

(i) Swatantra Bharat Mills, Shivaji Marg, Delhi;

(ii) DCM Silk Mills, Shivaji Marg, Delhi; and

(iii) Birla Textile Mill, Birla Lane, Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

(iv) Ajudhiya Textile Mills, Azadpur, Delhi.

(c) and (d) the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 8th July, 1996 in the matter of WP (C) 4677/85 (PIL) - M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India & Others directed that 168 hazardous/noxious and heavy industries listed in the order can not be permitted to operate and function in Delhi. These industries may relocate/shift themselves to any State in the National Capital Region. These industries shall stop functioning and operating in the city of Delhi w.e.f. 30th November, 1996. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed the National Capital Region Planning Board to render all necessary assistance to the relocating units. It has also directed the Chief Secretaries and Secretaries (Industries) of the States of Rajasthan, U.P., Haryana and the National Capital Territory of Delhi to "provide all assistance, help and necessary facilities to the industries which intend to relocate themselves in the industrial estates situated in their respective territories". It has also directed these four States to form a unified single agency "to act as a nodal agency to sort out all the problems of such industries". In pursuance of these orders the State Governments and the National Capital Territory of Delhi have set up a Single Window Facility for this purpose. A Unified Single Agency of the Chief Secretaries of the four States has been constituted which is monitoring the overall dispersal of industries from Delhi to the National Capital Region.

Number of Post Offices

663. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of post offices per 10 sq. km. in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : The details of State-wise number of post offices per 10 Sq. Km. in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Number of Post Offices per 10 Sq. Kms.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.587
2.	Assam	0.486
3.	Bihar	0.679
4.	Delhi	3.984
5.	Gujarat	0.453
	Dadra & Nagar H.	0.692
	Daman & Diu	1.517
6.	Haryana	0.589
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.494
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.072
9.	Karnataka	0.511
10.	Kerala	1.290
	Lakshdweep	3.125
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.253
12.	Maharashtra	0.400
	Goa	0.676
13.	North East	
	Arunachal Pradesh	0.034
	Manipur	0.301
	Meghalaya	0.213
	Mizoram	0.183
	Nagaland	0.182
	Tripura	0.674